

09-01

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Public Health Certification

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognizes that the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)¹ has developed a professional certification examination focused on measuring public health academic competencies. Furthermore, NACCHO recognizes that the eligibility for the Certification in Public Health (CPH) has been expanded to allow for public health professionals with five years of relevant work experience to sit for the exam. NACCHO also recognizes that the CPH, offered by NBPHE, is an academic credential and is not a pre-requisite for working in a governmental local public health agency and that the CPH credential is associated with individuals who are a subset of the public health workforce. NACCHO recognizes that the NBPHE has developed a Maintenance of Certification process for individuals with the CPH credential. NACCHO agrees to participate in the Maintenance of Certification administered by NBPHE and recommends its participation involve the designation and provision of continuing education activities and credits, where possible. Additionally, NACCHO agrees to participate in the review process for determining applicant eligibility to sit for the exam.

Justification

The NBPHE has developed, prepared, administered, and evaluated certification examinations for graduates from Council on Education for Public Health – accredited schools and programs of public health. NACCHO has representation on the NBPHE.

NACCHO is committed to the continuing education and professional development of its members. For example, NACCHO offers continuing education activities and credits to its physician and nurse members at its annual meeting and other trainings. NACCHO is committed to extending these benefits to members who possess the CPH credential when possible.

NACCHO works to include practice-based content and knowledge in all academic public health preparatory programs.



NACCHO has helped to define the capacities communities can reasonably expect of their local governmental public health departments through the Operational Definition of a Functional Local Health Department and through support of voluntary health department accreditation. It is necessary to ensure that the public health workforce is competent to provide these capacities.

Finally, NACCHO continues to foster the development of a competent, productive workforce for local health departments.

References

1. National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE). (2016). CPH Certified in Public Health by National Board of Public Health Examiners webpage. Retrieved May 23, 2016, from <https://www.nbphe.org/>

Record of Action

Proposed by NACCHO Workforce and Leadership Committee

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors March 2009

Updated May 2013

Updated June 2016